

Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

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46

ACTION AF-18

INFO OCT-01 EUR-25 IO-13 ADP-00 AID-20 SR-02 ORM-03 OMB-01

CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-07 H-02 INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-10

PA-03 RSC-01 PRS-01 SS-15 USIA-12 RSR-01 /148 W

----- 131049

R 051341Z JUL 73

FM AMEMBASSY BUJUMBURA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 3885

INFO AMEMBASSY ADDIS ABABA

AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS

AMEMBASSY DAR ES SALAAM

USMISSION GENEVA

AMEMBASSY KIGALI

AMEMBASSY KINSHASA

AMEMBASSY LAGOS

AMEMBASSY KAMPALA

USMISSION USUN NEW YORK

C O N F I D E N T I A L BUJUMBURA 682

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, PINS, SREF, BY, OAU

SUBJECT: MICOMBERO LETTER TO GOWON

REF A. DAR 2280 (NOTAL), B. BUJUMBURA 679

1. FOLLOWING ARE ESSENTIAL POINTS OF MESSAGE SENT JUNE 2 BY
PRESIDENT MICOMBERO TO PRESIDENT GOWON IN LATTER'S CAPACITY
AS OAU HEAD. TEXT BEING POUCHED ADDRESSEES.

2. AFRICAN ROLE IN BURUNDI PROBLEM: "SPIRIT OF DEBATES,
AND CONCERNS EXPRESSED BY OUR BROTHER LEADERS OF AFRICA LAST
MONTH(AT OAU SUMMIT) ABOUT SITUATION IN OUR COUNTRY HAS LED
US TO GREATER BELIEF IN UNDERSTANDING AND COOPERATION OF
OUR BROTHER NEIGHBORS IN SEEKING A SOLUTION TO THE PROBLEM
AFFECTING THE PEOPLE I LEAD... PROBLEM CREATED IN BURUNDI BY
ENEMIES OF AFRICA AND ITS PEOPLES."

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3. REQUEST THAT GOWON ACT AS INTERMEDIARY WITH TANZANIA:
"NEVETHELESS," LETTER CONTINUES, "WE ASK YOU TO BE OUR
INTERMEDIARY WITH LEADERS OF SISTER REPUBLIC OF TANZANIA
TO END THAT LATTER MAKE GREATER EFFORT CONTROL BURUNDI
REFUGEES ACCEPTED ONTO THEIR TERRITORY, WHO CONTINUE TO
ATTACK PEACEFUL POPULATION IN FRONTIER REGION. WE WANT
TANZANIAN LEADERS TO UNDERSTAND METHODS USED BY REBELS
MASQUERADING AS REFUGEES, WHO SOONER OR LATER RISK
COMPROMISING GOOD RELATIONS OF FRIENDSHIP AND COOPERATION"
BETWEEN BURUNDI AND TANZANIA.

4. GRB VERSION OF INCIDENTS: LETTER CLAIMS "REBELS" MAKE
PRACTICE OF ATTACKING ACROSS BORDER AND, WHEN THROWN BACK
INTO COUNTRY OF REFUGE, CLAIMING THEY ARE REFUGEES WOUNDED
AND MUTILATED BY BURUNDI ARMY AND PEOPLE. THEY EVEN
GO SO FAR AS TO CLAIM THEY ARE TANZANIAN OR RWANDAN CITIZENS
ATTACKED BY BURUNDI ARMY ON NEIGHBORS SOIL. NIGHT OF
JUNE 28-29 SAW NEW ARMED ATTACKS FROM TANZANIA AND RWANDA,
WHICH WERE REPULSED AND WHICH MICOMBERO HASTENING TO
REPORT TO GOWON TO TRY TO BRING TANZANIA AND RWANDA TO
EXERCISE MORE CONTROL.

5. COMMENT: EMBASSY HAS NO INDICATION THAT REFUGEES
FROM RWANDA WERE INVOLVED IN RECENT INCIDENT. RELIABLE
LOCAL SOURCES CONTINUE REPORT THAT INDICENT WAS SET OFF
BY BURUNDI ARMY INITIATIVE AGAINST REBELS IN SOUTHERN
(TANZANIA) BORDER AREA. UNCONFIRMED STORY CIRCULATING
HERE FOR SOME TIME THAT GOVERNOR OF KIGOMA SUPPLYING TANU
PARTY CARDS TO BURUNDI REFUGEES, THUS COMPLICATING
IDENTIFICATION OF VICTIMS BORDER ACTIONS.

6. MICOMBERO'S PASSING COMMENT ON OAU ROLE IN BURUNDI'S
PROBLEM (PARA 2 ABOVE) MIGHT GIVE GOWON OR EKANGAKI/
KAMANDA OPENING FOR MOVING BEYOND "INTERNAL QUESTION"
APPROACH IF OAU CHOOSES TO PICK IT UP.YOST

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: n/a
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 05 JUL 1973
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: garlanwa
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1973BUJUMB00682
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS YOST
Errors: N/A
Film Number: n/a
From: BUJUMBURA
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1973/newtext/t19730754/aaaabnrq.tel
Line Count: 96
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE
Office: ACTION AF
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators:
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: 73 A. DAR 2280 (NOTAL), B. BUJUMBURA
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: garlanwa
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 01 OCT 2001
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <01-Oct-2001 by elyme>; APPROVED <24-Jan-2002 by garlanwa>
Review Markings:

Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
30 JUN 2005

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: MICOMBERO LETTER TO GOWON
TAGS: PFOR, PINS, SREF, BY, OAU
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005